

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 3, and 5-7 will have been amended while claims 8-11 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. In particular, claim 1 will have been amended by the incorporation therein of the substantive recitations of now canceled claim 9.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application, in due course. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are now clearly in condition for allowance and respectfully request an action to such effect.

Initially, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for explicitly indicating his acceptance of the drawings filed the present application on June 28, 2005.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for acknowledging their claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 as well as for confirming that the certified copies of the priority documents, upon which the above noted claim for priority is based, have been received. By this confirmation by the Examiner, it is assumed that the certified copies of the Japanese applications were forwarded to the United States Designated Office by the International Bureau.

Further, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating his consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on September 28, 2005, by the return of an appropriately annotated copy of the PTO-1449 Form that was attached to the above noted Information Disclosure Statement.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by SWANSON et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,689,442). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SWANSON et al. in view of TAKAHASHI (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0031458).

Claim 9 was objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the president response, and without in any manner acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejections asserted against any of the claims pending in the present application, Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating therein the substantive limitations of claim 9, which has been canceled by the present response. According, at least in view of above noted amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims in the present application are clearly in condition for allowance. Thus, an action to such effect is respectfully requested in due course.

Moreover, the cancellation of claim 9 and the incorporation of the subject matter thereof into independent claim 1 is expressly made without in any manner acquiescing in the propriety of any of the Examiner's outstanding rejections. Rather, the above noted amendment of the claims is made solely in order to expedite the allowance of the present application and to provide Applicants with a measure of coverage for the herein disclosed invention.

In view of the above noted amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request an action indicating the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application, in due course. Such action is now believed to be appropriate and proper and is thus respectfully requested.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

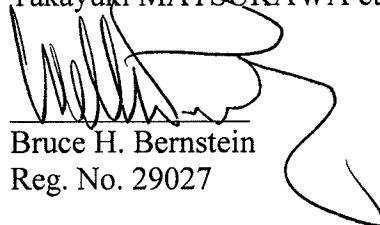
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the single independent claim to include the substantive limitations of a dependent claim that was indicated to contain allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Accordingly, at least in accordance with the Examiner's indication, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims in the present application are now clearly in condition for allowance.

The above noted incorporation of the subject matter of an objected to dependent claim into the independent claim is expressly made without any manner acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's outstanding rejection asserted against the independent claim.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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